

1-1-1970

# Let Me. Entertain You: The Great State of Maine Museums

Maine Department of Economic Development

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## Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Economic Development, "Let Me. Entertain You: The Great State of Maine Museums" (1970). *Economic and Community Development Documents*. Paper 66.  
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Another maritime pursuit dating from early colonial days in Maine's prosperous fishing industry. Maine coastal waters are blessed with an abundance of succulent seafoods, not the least of which is lobster. Over 30 varieties of edible fish and shellfish are harvested from the Gulf of Maine.

The visitor can catch the spirit of Maine's maritime tradition by viewing the ship models and memorabilia of the sea at either of Maine's two most complete maritime museums.

#### Bath

Marine Museum. Housed in 30-room, century-old Georgian mansion, this museum depicts 300 years of Maine's contribution to American maritime history. Specializes in maritime history of Lower Kennebec River Valley and the unique maritime heritage of Bath - "The Cradle of Ships." Over 7,000 items relating to Maine shipbuilding and the great age of steam and sail. Special Children's Room marked PLEASE TOUCH. Located at 963 Washington Street. Open May 30 - October 15, daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Searsport

Penobscot Marine Museum. Exhibits in four closely grouped buildings, the Old Town Hall, "The Captains' House," the "True House," and the "Yellow House." Contains a collection of ship models, sailing charts, ship portraits, whaling memorabilia, and objects pertaining to marine affairs and the maritime history of the State of Maine. Also an outstanding display of pressed glass. Open daily June 1 - September 15, Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Natural History

Maine has several good museums of natural history, dealing chiefly with the state's animal and plant life, rocks and minerals, and historical and primitive artifacts.

Three of the larger natural history museums are listed here. Information concerning others is contained in the booklet, "Cultural Heritage and Horizons," published by the Maine State Commission on Arts and Humanities. See Publication Section.

#### Augusta

Museum of Natural History, State Capitol. Dioramas of moose, bear, deer, and other Maine wildlife in natural simulated environment. Pool stocked with Maine gamefish. taxidermic representations of various wild animals native to Maine. Collection of Maine minerals and semiprecious stones, historical documents and artifacts. Open daily Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Summer hours, June 15 - Labor Day, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., including weekends. This collection will be housed in the facility to be opened in the spring of 1971.

#### Caribou

Nylander Museum. Houses the noted scientific collections of geology, minerals, Indian artifacts of Professor Olof Nylander, Swedish born geologist and naturalist. Also Civil War mementos. Open daily, Monday through Friday, 1-5 p.m.

#### Portland

Portland Museum of Natural History. Among the oldest natural history societies in the country founded in 1843. Exhibits include items collected by Admiral Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Sunday.

#### Miscellaneous Specialized Museums

Of universal appeal to the majority of Maine's visitors are the museums that can be grouped loosely under this classification. Not only does a visit to some of these institutions recreate the past, but also makes it possible to recapture the experiences of yesteryear.

Patrons are treated to the music of the antique mechanical musical instruments. They may ride a trolley car or narrow gauge railroad thus adding an increased dimension of total experience.

Following is a list of these museums and a few of the attractions they have to offer:

#### Boothbay

Boothbay Railway Museum. Steam train rides, Antique Auto Display, Iron Horse gift shop, Old Fashioned general store. Open daily mid-May to mid-September.

#### Boothbay

Boothbay Theater Museum, Boothbay Play House; theater memorabilia, pictures, props, playbills, etc. Open July and August.

#### Kennebunkport

Seashore Trolley Museum. More than 80 trolley cars from the horse car and the cable car to the larger interurbans, 1873 to 1950. Cars come from Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Germany, England, Scotland, Canada, and nineteen states of the U.S.A. Rides on open trolleys daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 1 to Labor Day. Saturdays and Sundays, 12 to 5 p.m., late spring and early fall. Exhibits open Saturday and Sunday without rides the rest of the year.

#### Wiscasset

Lincoln County Fire Museum. Old fire fighting equipment dating from 1803. Stage coach and ancient hearse. Open July 1 through Labor Day, daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m.

#### Wiscasset

Musical Wonder House Museum. A living museum of mechanical, musical instruments. Guided tours through rooms with restored antiques during which musical boxes, player pianos, automata, talking machines and automatic organs are played. Built in 1852. Open June 1 to Labor Day. Hours: Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. "Candlelight Concerts" begin 8 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, during July and August.

#### THIS VACATION PLANNER

Is designed as a guide to some of Maine's better known museums. A brief description of each institution has been included to acquaint the visitor with the exhibits and attractions it has to offer. As an aid in planning visits, we have also included information on when the museums are open to the public. In addition to the places mentioned in this pamphlet, Maine has many historic homes, historical associations, and museums. Check Publications Section and local sources for detailed information.

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One in a series of Vacation Planners programmed by the Maine Department of Economic Development, available from 78 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102. Prospective visitors to Maine are interested in the "facts", and these brochures are designed with this in mind. We would appreciate receiving your comments.

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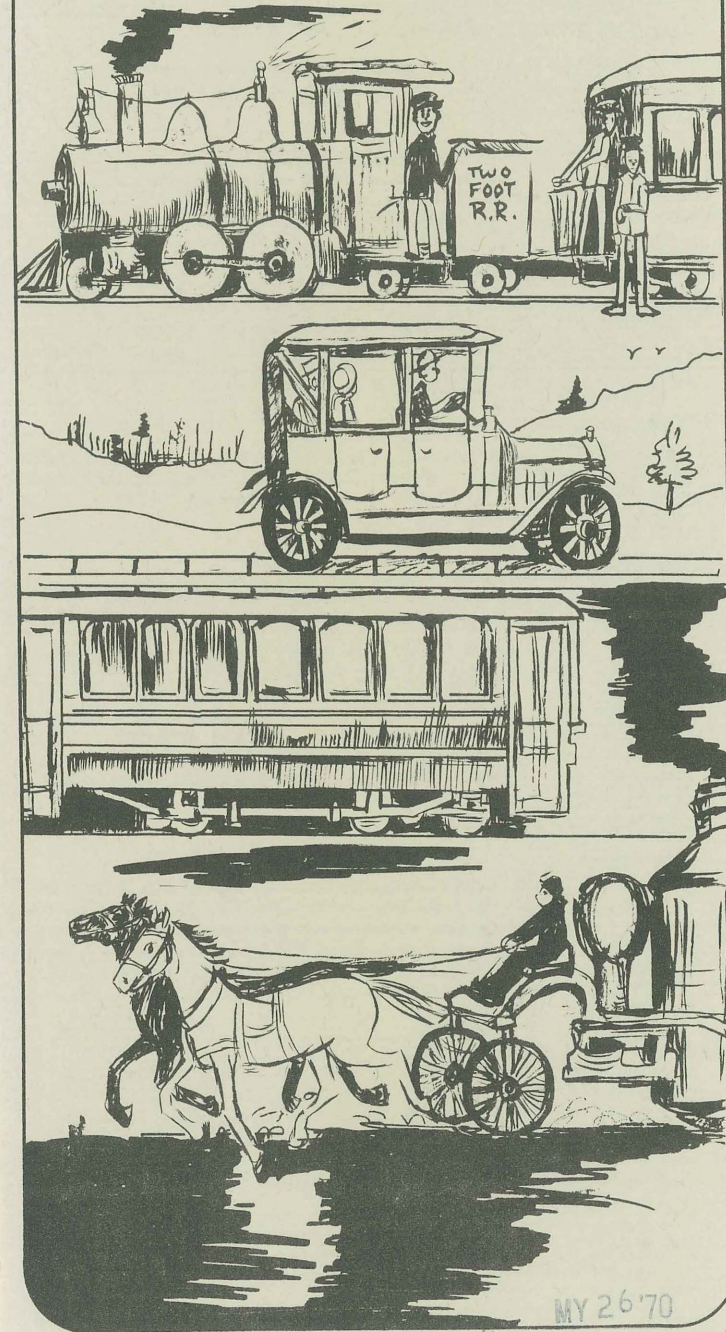
published by  
Department of Economic Development  
State House, Augusta, Maine 04330

Appropriation Number 1230



# Let Me. D60.32:17 C.3 entertain you

## The Great State of Maine Museums



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VACATION PLANNER 17

Visiting Maine museums can be likened to taking a voyage back in time to the state's historical, cultural, and geological beginnings. These repositories of historical relics, art treasures, and representations of natural history, are storehouses of Maine's rich and varied heritage.

Each museum offers something unique to expand and enrich the visitor's experience. It may be some unusual bit of local lore, an intricate model of a Maine sailing ship, or a painting that conjures feelings of nostalgia for a time now past.

#### Art Museums

Maine with its changing seasons, rocky coast, forest, lakes and general topography, provides infinite subject matter for the artist's brush. This is one of many reasons why a number of famous artists have chosen to settle here. Scores of others, equally prominent, maintain summer residences in the Pine Tree State.

Many of their works hang in Maine art museums and galleries alongside those of other artists who have won wide reputation for their canvases.

Several of the more prominent museums housing permanent collections are listed below. In addition to these, Maine has a number of excellent galleries that exhibit the works of contemporary artists as well as those of other eras.

#### Brunswick

Bowdoin College Museum of Art (Walker Art Building), permanent collection of colonial, federal, and American 19th century paintings, European Old Master drawings. Kress collection of Renaissance and 17th century painting. Open weekdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturdays 10-5, Sundays 2-5, September through June. (July 1 - Labor Day) 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., 7-9 weekdays, 2-5 Sundays.

#### Ogunquit

Museum of Art of Ogunquit. Twentieth century American sculpture, paintings and drawings. Summer exhibitions from loan and permanent collections. Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays; 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sundays, July and August.

#### Orono

University of Maine art collection. Contains some 1300 art works (250 paintings and a wide variety of graphic media). This working collection is on constant view in the various public areas of the campus. Also present a varied program of gallery exhibitions in University gallery; Monday - Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-12.

#### Portland

Portland Museum of Art. Located at 111 High Street, the museum contains a permanent collection of 19th and 20th century American painting and sculpture. Frequent changing exhibitions. Open year round, daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from 2-5 p.m., closed Monday and legal holidays.

#### Rockland

William A. Farnsworth Library and Museum. Selections from Museum's permanent collection including "Her Room" and other works by Andrew Wyeth. Rotating exhibits by invited Maine artists and others. Open year round from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday; closed Mondays excepting June, July, August and September. Closed on legal holidays.

#### Waterville

Colby College Art Museum. Permanent collection, largely 19th and 20th century American art. Portrait, "Mrs. Metcalf Bowler" by John Singleton Copley. Frequent exhibits. Open year round 9 a.m. to 12, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Also open Sundays from May 15-September 15.

The following established galleries present top level professional work of museum quality:

Lewiston	-	Bates College, Treat Gallery
Ogunquit	-	Barn Gallery Associates
Rockport	-	Maine Coast Artists
Wiscasset	-	The Maine Art Gallery, Exhibitions by artists working in Maine.

#### Historical Museums

Largely due to her geographical location, Maine has played an important role in American history.

This is particularly true of the colonial period when Samuel de Champlain, Captain John Smith, and others carried out early explorations along the Maine coast.

The Popham colony site near the mouth of the Kennebec River is recognized by many historians as the first attempted English settlement on the northeast coast of America. Popham is referred to as the Second Colony of Virginia and America under a charter granted by King James I in the year 1606.

Maine is also famed as the site of the Arnold Trail marking Benedict Arnold's harrowing march through the wilderness to Quebec in 1775.

During the Civil War, Maine furnished 72,945 men to the Union forces. Maine troops under the command of Colonel (later Brigadier General) Joshua Chamberlain distinguished themselves in the battle of Gettysburg by securing the key position of Little Round Top.

The people of Maine have authorized a \$4,800,000 building to house State Archives, Library, and Historical Museum. The building, located near Maine's State House in Augusta, is scheduled for completion in 1971.

Maine's colorful past lives today in the historical landmarks and museums scattered throughout the state.

#### Acadia National Park

Robert Abbe Museum, Sieur de Monts Spring (1604), Stone Age antiquities, Indian artifacts, dioramas; open May - October, weekdays.

#### Augusta

Fort Western, Bowman Street. Original barracks of 20 rooms built by the Plymouth Company in 1754 during the French and Indian War. Maintained as a museum, the Fort depicts colonial living, including period rooms, crafts, and special exhibits. Open May 15 - Labor Day, weekdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sundays 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Bangor

Penobscot Heritage. "Fur Trapping and Trade," exhibit gallery of Bangor City Hall. Open weekdays, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### Castine

Wilson Museum, Stone and Iron Age of Europe, Pre-historic cultures of Europe, Polynesia and the Americas. Local historic material including early tools, blacksmith shop, etc. May 27 through September 15, open daily 2-5 p.m. Closed Monday.

#### Kennebunk

Brick Store Museum. Originally a general store. Adjoining buildings restored. Changing exhibits of artistic and historical interest. Many objects relating to early days, especially concerning shipbuilding and commerce, for which Kennebunk was famous. Open daily 10:00 - 4:30 p.m., April 1 to October 15. Closed Mondays and holidays.

#### Poland Spring

Shaker Village (1793), one of the last representatives of America's oldest denominational sect. Village tour, Meeting House (1794), Museum featuring furniture, crafts, agricultural and manufacturing exhibits.

#### Portland

Maine Historical Society (1822), 485 Congress Street. Library and Museum. Open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday 10 to 12.

#### Wiscasset

Lincoln County Museum and Old Jail (1809) - 200 years of Maine arts and skills. Exhibitions of interest "From around the world to Lincoln County." Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m., June 1 - October 1. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 10-5, Sundays 12:30 - 5, October 1 - June 1.

#### York

Old Gaol Museum. Designated as a National Historical Landmark, the Gaol was begun in 1653 as the King's Prison. Oldest existing English public building in America. Noted for its dungeons and fine collection of furniture and china. Open weekdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sundays 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

#### Logging Museums

The Maine forest industry has always been an important component of the state's economy from the days of earliest settlement down to the present time. Even today, nearly 90 percent of Maine's area is forested.

Listed here are two museums commemorating the forest industry's contribution to Maine's overall development.

#### Ashland

Maine Forest and Logging Museum. Contains hundreds of tools, photos, etc., pertaining to lumbering industry. Pines bearing the mark of the King's zero. Latter is throwback to pre-revolutionary days when tallest and straightest trees were marked for use as masts on sailing ships. Open June 1 - September 1, Monday through Saturday, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sundays.

#### Patten

Lumberman's Museum. Over 1000 articles concerned with lumbering, varying from a surveyor's scribe to a 20-ton steam log-hauler. Housed in four buildings. Open May 30 - November 1; Sunday afternoons 1-5; Tuesday through Saturday 9-4. Closed Mondays.

#### Maritime Museums

With some 2,500 miles of irregular coastline, it was inevitable that shipbuilding and maritime affairs should contribute in large part to Maine's heritage.

The first transatlantic trader built in America, the Virginia of Sagadahock, was constructed at the Popham colony. The tradition of shipbuilding still lingers today in the many boatyards along the Maine seacoast.

#### PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

##### Cultural Heritage and Horizons

Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities  
State House, Augusta, Maine 04330

##### Historic Sites in Maine

Maine Department of Economic Development  
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

##### Other Information and Publications about Maine:

Maine Department of Economic Development  
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Maine Publicity Bureau  
78 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102

State of Maine Information Center  
48 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020

State of Maine Information Center  
Laurentien Hotel, Dominion, Montreal, Canada

##### Other Information Centers:

Jct. of U. S. Rt. 1 & Me. Turnpike, Kittery, Maine  
Bass Park, Bangor, Maine

U. S. Rt. 302, Fryeburg, Maine (summer only)

Maine Turnpike, North  
Cumberland, Maine (summer only)

Internat'l Bridge, Calais, Maine (summer only)

All Local Chamber of Commerce Offices